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# Community *notes*

## Upcoming Community Races

The IronGirl Half Marathon and 5K will take place on Saturday, September 12. Benefitting The Ulman Cancer Fund for Young Adults, the course begins at Lake Kittamaquundi and continues over the streets of Town Center and Hickory Ridge. For more information and to register, visit the [website](#).

The Howard County Police Department will host its annual "Police Pace" 5K fundraiser on Sunday, September 13 at Centennial Park. This event supports a number of charitable initiatives through the event's sponsor, the Howard County Police Foundation. To register and for more information, visit [policepace.com](http://policepace.com).

National Family Resiliency Center (NFRC) helps children and adults preserve a sense of family, foster healthy relationships, and adjust constructively to change during times of separation, divorce, and other family transitions. NFRC invites you to register for its 5K for Families, 1M Walk and Family Fun Day on Saturday, September 19 at the Lakefront in Columbia. To register, click [here](#). For more information, visit NFRC's [website](http://ask@nfrchelp.org), call 410.740.9553 or email [ask@nfrchelp.org](mailto:ask@nfrchelp.org).

The Downtown Columbia Partnership invites the community to participate in its 2nd annual Discover Downtown Columbia 5K and Fun Run on Sunday, September 27. Featuring live music, a beer garden hosted by Clyde's and food and beverages from Whole Foods Market, this event promises to be fun for the entire family. Click [here](#) to register.

Please be advised that many of our local roads will be impacted by the races. You may wish to check the website for each race and plan your travel accordingly.

## Greeting

Today, we commemorate the anniversary of 9/11/2001. Everyone can play an important part in memorializing those who lost their lives, honoring our first responders and remember the spirit of unity that emerged in our country and around the world. Consider performing an act of service to our community and please thank the men and women who bravely work every day to keep their communities safe.

*Smaykay*

## Voter Registration Drive

The League of Women Voters of Howard County will participate in National Voter Registration Day (NVRD), a nationwide, nonpartisan effort to register thousands of voters this fall on Tuesday, September 22, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at Miller Branch Library, 9421 Frederick Road, Ellicott City. Voters who want to register or update their registration if they have moved should stop by and easily complete the registration form.

Equipment for the new Maryland voting system will be available for viewing at the Miller Library during this event. This equipment will be used for the 2016 elections. Staff from the Howard County Board of Elections will be available to demonstrate the new voting system.

**DS200 Precinct Scanner and Tabulator:** Tabulates ballots marked either by hand or by the ballot marking device

**ExpressVote Ballot Marking Device:** Produces a voter verifiable paper record and allows voters with disabilities to vote privately and independently

**ExpressPass Printer:** Prints activation card to activate the ExpressVote ballot marking device

**DS850 High Speed Central County Scanner:** Tabulates absentee and provisional ballots

## Arts News

Enjoy a self-guided tour of Howard County art galleries during *Road to the Arts* weekend, September 18–20. This annual event invites the public to discover and explore local visual arts spaces. Participating galleries will host receptions and exhibits throughout the weekend, beginning Friday, September 18 with our Annual Meeting and Grant Awards Ceremony at the Center for the Arts.

The *Road to the Arts* map also includes our 2015 ARTsites locations. Get yours by calling 410-313-ARTS (2787) or download a copy [here](#).



Visual and performing arts classes begin the week of September 14 for children and adults; fall offerings include Saturday Art Studio, Drawing & Composition, and more. Or stop by the HC Arts Center for ongoing drop-in portrait and figure model sessions. Visit the [Classes and Camps](#) page for class listings and to register.



Experience the soulful sounds of Long Reach's own Janice B. at Howard County Arts Council's first free ARTreach Courtyard Concert at Long Reach Village Center.

Singing and writing since childhood, this multi-talented artist is working on her third album and has collaborated with diverse artists including DJ/producer N'Dinga Gaba and singer/songwriter QueenEarth.

Janice B. will perform Saturday, September 19 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. No tickets required, so just come out and enjoy the music! The concert coincides with the Columbia Art Center's *ManneqART* exhibit reception from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. The reception is free and open to the public.

Additional free courtyard concerts are planned for October 3, November 15, and December 11. The ARTreach Courtyard Concert Series is sponsored by the Arts Council through a grant from Howard County, MD. To learn more, visit [www.artreachhoco.org](http://www.artreachhoco.org).



ManneqART welcomes the community to see marvelous work submitted by artists from all over the nation to this year's ManneqART challenge! This free event is hosted at fifteen locations throughout Howard County. View more than 100 spectacular costumes, each one with marvelous hair art and imaginative makeup designs. Download the map from the [website](#) and enjoy your trip!

## Community Picnic and Collection Drive for Military Personnel

Wilde Lake Community Association invites the community to its [3rd Annual Old-Fashioned Family Picnic](#) on Saturday, September 19, 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at Wilde Lake Park (Hyla Brook Road near the boathouse). During the picnic, the community is asked to contribute to a collection drive for items for Soldier Care Packages. The drive will continue through the end of the year and items can be dropped off at Slayton House.

All donated items will be given to Running Brook resident, Mrs. Vivian "Millie" Bailey, who collects donations year round for care packages which she mails to soldiers overseas. The packages include a variety of items including food snacks, personal care items, batteries and puzzle books.

Monetary donations, used to purchase items for the care packages and to pay for postage using the USPS Priority Flat Rate boxes, are also appreciated. Checks for contributions should be made out and sent to First Presbyterian Church, 9325 Presbyterian Circle, Columbia, Maryland 21045.

## BINGO!!

The Hickory Ridge Community Association invites you to its first Fall Family Bingo night of the year at The Hawthorn Center on Friday, September 25 from 7:30- 9:00 p.m. They provide disposable bingo cards at 5 for \$1, drinks for 75 cents each and free snacks. Play until 9:00 p.m. then end the night with a "fill-the-card" round. Winners take home prizes and cash. Players receive a free bingo card for every item donated to the Howard County Food Bank. Boxed pasta, canned tuna, peanut butter and cereal are especially needed, as well as diapers and feminine hygiene products. No expired food, please.

## Recreation & Parks Announces Deer Management Program for 2015-2016

Howard County Recreation & Parks will conduct its deer management program through bow and shotgun managed hunts and sharpshooting. The program will maintain a stable, balanced white-tailed deer population in our parks where deer browsing has been shown to reduce biodiversity.

The sharpshooting program utilizes licensed and qualified marksmen and precise, accurate, noise-suppressed firearms in areas where the managed hunts are not feasible. Sharpshooting will take place from 3:30 p.m. to midnight, unless otherwise noted. All properties involved in the sharpshooting program will be closed to the public during this time. All the meat from this operation is donated to charitable organizations in the area. Visit the [website](#) to read the media advisory and view the full schedule.

## Scammers Who Hide In Plain Sight

Do you trust people more if they're like you, or a part of your community? Scammers bet that you do. Every day, they take advantage of the trust you have in people with whom you identify. It's called "affinity fraud" — when someone in a group uses their membership in that group to scam another member. Affinity fraud often happens to members of religious, ethnic, or school groups. Are you willing to hear more about a "deal" if a member of your church asks you to? Or take advice from someone who speaks your same language?

Affinity fraud is especially difficult if the victims don't have the knowledge or language ability to get help. Some tend to avoid reporting fraud to law enforcement or feel pressure to resolve community problems internally. So, what should you do when someone you know tells you about a "great" deal?

**Take your time and check it out.** Don't agree to any deal that requires you to act now, and no matter who makes the offer, do your homework. Look up the company online and search for consumer complaints. Think about whether this deal is good for you?

**Don't buy the hype.** If you are promised guaranteed results (e.g. the promise of legal immigration status) or told that an investment is "risk-free," the deal is probably a scam.

**Get it in writing.** Don't part with your money, until you have a written agreement, have read all of the terms, and are sure everything you were told is included.

**Report it.** The Howard County Office of Consumer Affairs (OCA) can help you separate fact from fiction, and in some cases can help you recovery money you've lost. Call OCA at: 410-313-6420 (voice/relay) or e-mail us at: [consumer@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:consumer@howardcountymd.gov).

## Nature Hike

Hike in the MPEA on Saturday, September 26 at 10:00 a.m. Join a guide from the Howard County Bird Club for a walk focused on finding and learning about woodpeckers. There is a small registration fee. For more information and register, visit [Robinson Nature Center's webpage](#).

## Happening Near You...

The Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC) will present a long range transportation plan, Maximize 2040, to the Howard County Public Transportation Board (PTB) on Tuesday, September 15, 7:00 - 8:00 p.m., Columbia/Ellicott Rooms, George Howard Building, 3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City.

Visit the [BMC website](#) to read/download the draft plan, for information about future hearings and the instructions for submitting comments.



The [Howard County Maryland Branch NAACP](#) will host its 2nd Annual Job Fair on Tuesday, September 22, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at the [Savage Volunteer Fire Station](#) Community Room located at 8521 Corridor Road, Savage, MD 20763. The event is free and open to the public.



Join Columbia Association's annual BikeAbout on Saturday, September 26. Riders set off from the Downtown Columbia Lakefront. The free, fun and informative tour presents Columbia's history and showcases the connectivity of its pathway system. Pre-registration is not required but is encouraged via [BikeAbout.Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/bikeabout-columbia-association-tickets-54444444444). Columbia BikeAbout begins at 9:30 a.m. Riders are expected to complete the ride by 1:00 p.m.

CA is seeking volunteers who will assist with traffic control and directions along the route. Flexible shifts are available between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. CA welcomes parents who wish to volunteer with their kids. Training and a free T-shirt will be provided. For more information, email [Columbia.Archives@ColumbiaAssociation.org](mailto:Columbia.Archives@ColumbiaAssociation.org) or call 410-715-6781.



The Columbia Festival of the Arts' Fall Festival, British Invasion, takes place October 2 – 4. Tickets are selling well; purchase tickets [online](#) through the Festival's website or by visiting its page on [EventBrite](#).



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